



KENYA

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
Population, Health, and Nutrition Briefing Sheet

Country Profile

Kenya is an East African nation of 28 million and a relatively stable country with a vibrant private sector. Kenya serves as the gateway to shipping, rail, and road networks for regional economic trade and transport. The nation's economic performance has been generally favorable since the drought years of the early 1990s, in part due to the government's liberalization policies. Kenya's economic success, however, is tempered by rising poverty and rapid population growth, and recently the country has been facing increasingly difficult economic and political challenges. As is true throughout the region, poor health conditions also impose a formidable obstacle to development.

USAID Strategy

USAID's ambitious population and health strategy is designed to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of family planning and health care systems in Kenya. USAID is the lead donor in this sector and has contributed to Kenya's progress in this area for more than 20 years. USAID's current five-year health sector project focuses on three major areas:

- Increasing non-USAID resources for family planning, prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and child survival;
- Strengthening policy development and health care financing; and
- Supporting the establishment of an integrated approach to service delivery, incorporating research, training, rehabilitation of services, and logistics support.

Major Program Areas

Family Planning. USAID support serves to strengthen Kenyan capacity to deliver effective family planning services. In the public sector, USAID assists with the development of policy models; information, education and communication (IE&C) campaigns; improved service quality; and in conjunction with other donors, commodity logistics training and social marketing pro-

grams. In the private sector, USAID provides training and technical support for a variety of for-profit and nonprofit organizations and promotes community-based contraceptive distribution and social marketing.

Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STIs. USAID's integrated HIV/AIDS/STI program builds on the mission's successful approaches to date, particularly in the areas of condom social marketing, policy development, and strengthening of nongovernmental organization (NGO) networks. The mission also supports improved diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of STIs and strengthened local capacity to forecast, analyze, and use information on the impact of AIDS.

Health Care Financing. USAID promotes policy dialogue and provides technical assistance for Kenya's national health care financing initiative, addressing both cost recovery and the quality of services. The program helped develop Kenya's first private managed care program and is working to help NGOs sustain their services through improved fee collection and management.

Child Survival. USAID is promoting child survival at the national level through support for sector reform and integration of services, establishment of an initiative to help reduce reliance on donors for vaccine purchases, assistance to polio and vitamin A campaigns, and leveraging of other donor resources, particularly for malaria control. The mission also supports malaria research and other local child survival activities in Western and Nyanza Provinces.

Results

USAID activities have played a pivotal role in Kenya's population and health sector successes. Results include:

- A decrease in the fertility rate from 8.1 children per woman in 1978 to an estimated 4.7 in 1997;
- Increased use of modern family planning methods from 8 percent of women in 1984 to an estimated 31 percent in 1997;



Bureau for Africa

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- Distribution of over 40 million condoms in 1997—33 million through the public sector and 8 million through social marketing sales—a monumental increase from less than 400,000 in 1989.

Success Stories

USAID has successfully enlisted political, educational, business, and church organizations to join the struggle against AIDS. Working with a local AIDS NGO consortium of over 320 organizations, USAID supports local capacity for AIDS advocacy both nationally and locally. Through USAID support for staff seminars, and the recruitment and training of peer educators, over 35,000 employees and students have been reached in universities, technical colleges, and companies such as Kenya Ports Authorities, BATA shoes, and security guard companies in Nairobi.

With USAID support, the government's cost sharing program has generated over \$31 million in additional revenues since its inception in 1989. This includes \$8.5 million in revenues collected in 1997, roughly 25 percent of which was set aside for primary health care services. USAID can now claim a nearly 200 percent return on its original investment of \$16 million. Elements of Kenya's successful health care financing approach are now used as a model for other countries in the region.

Continuing Challenges

Despite Kenya's success in improving family planning and health, daunting challenges remain. A rapidly growing reproductive-age population in need of family planning services and the explosive HIV/AIDS pandemic, combined with falling resources, will continue to severely constrain the mission's ability to meet future targets. To maintain contraceptive prevalence at 1993 levels requires more than a 35 percent increase in the number of family planning users; meanwhile, the HIV prevalence rate may already have increased beyond 10 percent of the population. In addition to causing personal pain, suffering, and untimely deaths, HIV/AIDS continues to severely constrain Kenya's economy through high health care costs and lost income. Continued progress in the health sector will undoubtedly require increased resources, challenging the Government of Kenya and USAID to further address sustainability issues.



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